THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). National Policy on disability rehabilitation is under preparation.

(c) and (d). The action for operationalising the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation to promote economic development activities and self-employment for the benefit/economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons is in progress. The proposal to set up a National Trust for the Welfare of persons with mental retardation and cerebral palsy is under process. The main task of the Trust will be to make arrangements for care and rehabilitation of the persons suffering from mental retardation and cerebral palsy; to provide aid and assistance to the organisations engaged in such care and to receive and manage the properties bequeatned for the purpose.

New Projects for Orissa

747. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some welfare projects of Orissa are pending with the Union Government for approval;

(b) if so, the estimated amount involved in each of them alongwith the salient features thereof?

(c) the reasons for the delay in according approval to each of them; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There are two projects i.e. (i) Arbhajharbhal Community Lift Irrigation Project-1994-95; and (ii) improvement of PWD Road from Jamardini to N.H. 6 Road in Angul District.

An amount of Rs. 627.82 lakhs was asked by the State Govt. for implementation of Arbhajharbhal Community Lift Irrigation Project out of the Additional Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub-Plan during 1994-95, vide their letter dated 13-3-96. In addition, Rs. 124.50 Lakhs has been asked by the State Govt. for construction of PWD Road from Jamardini to NH. 6 Road in Angul district. Both the proposals are pending from 13-3-96 and 15-6-96, respectively.

(c) and (d). Recently the Government have decided to discontinue the grants under additional Special Central Assistance for Tribal Sub Plan and therefor, the projects will not be considered.

Searches carried out by Delhi Police

748. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of searches carried out in Delhi by the police during 1996 police station-wise;

(b) in how many cases did the police while conducting searches and making seizures not associate the independent withnesses of the locality;

(c) whether the investigating officer can make searches and seizures in areas not falling under the police station to which he is posted; and

(d) if so, under which section of the criminal procedure code?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Mining Licences in National Parks and Sanctuaries

749. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining licences have been given/are being given in some areas earmarked for the National Parks and Sanctuaries; and

(b) if so, the National Parks and Sanctuaries where this situation has arisen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Letters from Members of Parliament

750. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received during 1996 from MPs regarding affairs of Super Bazar;

(b) the number of letters awaiting replies from Government and reasons for delay;

(c) the time by which replies to these letters be expected; and

(d) the action taken to avoid recurrence of delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). 14 (fourteen) letters have been received from the Members of Parliament during the year 1996 regarding the affairs of Super Bazar, Delhi.

(c) and (d). Super Bazar has been reminded to expedite their replies in this regard and the replies to the MPs will be sent soon after the receipt of the materials.